

# Claims

- [c1] 1.A method of filtering messages received on a receiving telephone apparatus, the method comprising:  
receiving a message from a calling telephone;  
applying a filtering rule to the message on the receiving phone ; and  
executing a filtering process if the message satisfies the filtering rules.
- [c2] 2.The method of claim 1 wherein the filtering rule comprises filtering the message if the telephone number of the calling telephone contains less than a predetermined number of digits.
- [c3] 3.The method of claim 1 wherein the filtering rule comprises filtering the message if the telephone number of the calling telephone is not listed in a phone book of the receiving telephone apparatus.
- [c4] 4.The method of claim 1 wherein the filtering rule comprises filtering the message if the telephone number of the calling telephone is listed as an entry in a blocking list stored in the receiving telephone apparatus.

- [c5] 5.The method of claim 1 wherein a portion of at least one telephone number entry listed in the blocking list is specified as a wildcard, the filtering rule comprises filtering the message if the telephone number of the calling telephone matches the wildcard entry in the blocking list.
- [c6] 6.The method of claim 1 wherein executing the filtering process on the message comprises automatically deleting the message without informing a user of the receiving telephone apparatus.
- [c7] 7.The method of claim 1 wherein executing the filtering process on the message comprises automatically deleting the message after a user of the receiving telephone apparatus has finished reading the message.
- [c8] 8.The method of claim 1 wherein executing the filtering process on the message comprises saving the message to a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card of the receiving telephone apparatus without informing a user of the receiving telephone apparatus.
- [c9] 9.The method of claim 1 wherein if a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card of the receiving telephone apparatus is full with messages from calling telephones, the receiving telephone apparatus automatically deletes a first mes-

sage that matches the filtering rule.

- [c10] 10.The method of claim 1 wherein if a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card of the receiving telephone apparatus is full with messages from calling telephones, the receiving telephone apparatus automatically deletes an oldest message that matches the filtering rule.
- [c11] 11.The method of claim 1 wherein the message is a Short Message Service (SMS) message.
- [c12] 12.A method of filtering messages received on a receiving telephone apparatus, the method comprising:  
receiving a message from a calling telephone;  
applying a filtering rule to the message; and  
executing a filtering process on the message if the message satisfies the filtering rules, a first filtering process comprising automatically deleting the message without informing a user of the receiving telephone apparatus.
- [c13] 13.The method of claim 12 wherein the filtering rule comprises filtering the message if a telephone number of the calling telephone contains less than a predetermined number of digits.
- [c14] 14.The method of claim 12 wherein the filtering rule comprises filtering the message if the telephone number of the calling telephone is not listed in a phone book of

the receiving telephone apparatus.

- [c15] 15.The method of claim 12 wherein the filtering rule comprises filtering the message if the telephone number of the calling telephone is listed as an entry in a blocking list stored in the receiving telephone apparatus.
- [c16] 16.The method of claim 15 wherein a portion of at least one telephone number entry listed in the blocking list is specified as a wildcard, and the filtering rule comprises filtering the message if the telephone number of the calling telephone matches the wildcard entry in the blocking list.
- [c17] 17.The method of claim 12 wherein a second filtering process comprises automatically deleting the message after a user of the receiving telephone apparatus has finished reading the message.
- [c18] 18.The method of claim 12 wherein a third filtering process comprises saving the message to a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card of the receiving telephone apparatus without informing a user of the receiving telephone apparatus.
- [c19] 19.The method of claim 12 wherein if a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card of the receiving telephone apparatus is full with messages from calling telephones, the re-

ceiving telephone apparatus automatically deletes a first message that matches the filtering rule.

[c20] 20. The method of claim 12 wherein if a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card of the receiving telephone apparatus is full with messages from calling telephones, the receiving telephone apparatus automatically deletes an oldest message that matches the filtering rule.